

**REMARKS**

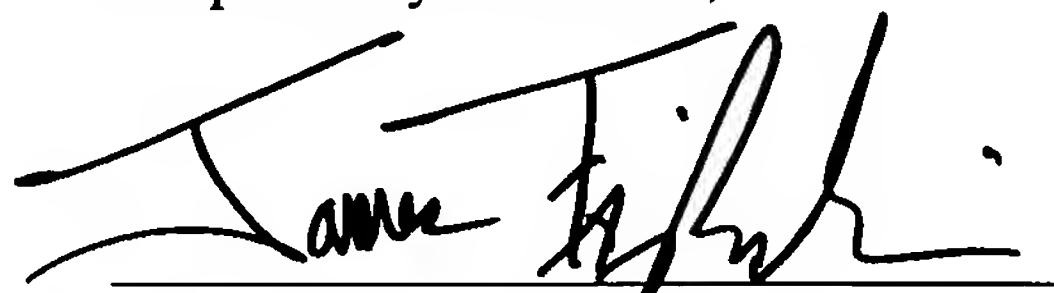
Applicants have amended the specification to add a priority claim to International Patent Application No. PCT/CA04/000011, filed January 5, 2004, under the Patent Cooperation Treaty, which claims priority to the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/437,986, filed January 6, 2003.

Applicants submit the national stage filing fee in the amount of \$300.00. Applicants reserve the right to file a preliminary amendment to reduce excess claim fees at a later time.

Applicants respectfully request entry of this preliminary amendment before beginning examination of the above-identified patent application. Applicants note that pending claims 1 to 102 are original claims, presented in International Patent Application No. PCT/CA04/000011, filed on January 5, 2004, and published in International Publication Number WO 2004/060403, published on July 22, 2004. Applicants subsequently amended the claims in an Article 19 Amendment, filed with the PCT on September 17, 2004. However, Applicants believe that these amendments have not been received by the U.S. Receiving Office. Applicants respectfully request entry of the original claims, as presented in the International Patent Application and in this Preliminary Amendment, for examination by the Examiner.

Early favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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